



Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

ICHTHYOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MONTAUK, LONG ISLAND.

The following notes were secured during the course of field work undertaken for the Brooklyn Museum in the early part of August, 1915. Some local names are included in quotation marks:

Sphyrna zygaena (Linn.). A Hammerhead, about five feet in length, was seen several miles off Montauk Point on August 8th.

Clupea harengus Linn. A specimen about seven inches long was picked up in fairly fresh condition on the ocean beach on August 7. The species seems to be unusual in Long Island waters at this season.

Brevoortia tyrannus (Latrobe). The local Menhaden fishery has practically failed this season.

Scomber scombrus Linn. "Boston Mackerel." The pound-net fishermen were securing a few of these fish. A number of young mackerel were found in the stomachs of Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougalli*).

Xiphias gladius Linn. Single Swordfish were taken by harpoon off Montauk Point on July 10, 14 and 15, 1915, by William D. Parsons, Jr., of Montauk.

Caranx crysos (Mitchill). "Jack." A seven-inch specimen was taken in a pound-net on August 11.

Poronotus triacanthus (Peck). "Butterfish"; "Shiner." This fish was entering the pound-nets in large numbers in early August.

Micropterus salmoides (Lacepede). Abundant in Fort Pond, where it was introduced about 1887. On July 20, 1915, an example having two complete and distinct heads was caught, taken to the Montauk Inn, and eaten. It was an adult in good condition.

Morone americana (Gmelin). Exceedingly abundant in Fort Pond, Great Pond, and Reed Pond. These waters are now landlocked, but were stocked about thirty years ago. On August 11 no less than 75 White Perch were caught in Fort Pond by two girls and a boy. This body of water, unlike Great Pond, is quite fresh. The largest of the fish weighed just under a pound. Some of the local seafarers have a curious notion that these perch have become "transformed" from some distant salt-water species. Unfortunately, those caught are seldom eaten, and we saw one large lot fed to hogs.

Centropristes striatus (Linn.). Many Sea Bass were being taken on hand-lines off Montauk Point, and we saw hundreds enclosed in pounds in Fort Pond Bay, where they are kept for a better market later in the season. Meanwhile they are fed on chopped squid, fish entrails, etc. This year the species is affected by an eye disease, which Capt. E. B. Tuthill says he observed also ten or twelve years ago. Some fish, when caught, are seen to have their eyes covered with a whitish film. Subsequently the eye begins to bulge out, and the outer surface to disintegrate, hanging in white shreds. At this stage the unfortunate victims are pursued by their fellows, which bite at the protruding eyes, causing death after a number of hours.

Spheroides maculatus (Bloch & Schneider). A specimen $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in total length was taken on August 11.

Chilomycterus schoepfii (Walbaum). "Porcupine-fish." A specimen was taken in a pound-net at Fort Pond Bay on August 11, but was thrown away

before we saw it. A few are said to have been caught at the same place earlier in the summer.

Mola mola (Linn.). "Sunfish." One was taken by William D. Parsons, Jr., on July 15 at sea south of Montauk Point. It was captured with Swordfish tackle, and cut up for use as lobster bait.

Merluccius bilinearis (Mitchill) "Whiting." A few of these fish were taken by a pound-net fisherman on August 11.

Urophycis chuss (Walbaum) "Ling." A small specimen was picked out of a boatload of pound-net fish on August 11.

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NOTES ON FISHES NEAR NEW YORK.

In COPEIA No. 2, February, 1914, occur dates of local occurrence of marine fishes in autumn and early winter. Examination of Dr. Wiegmann's notes shows a number of records which are late or otherwise of interest, not published at that time. With these we here include one or two records of specimens received at the American Museum of Natural History.

Mustelus canis. December 13, 1913 (Coney Island).

Galeocerdo tigrinus. A large tiger shark was captured off Islip, Long Island, Sept. 11, 1915. The head was sent to the American Museum by Captain John C. Doxsee.

Raja ocellata. December 30, 1911 (Seventeen-fathom Banks).

Leptocephalus conger. "Silver Eel." December 30, 1911 (Seventeen-fathom Banks).

Pomolobus pseudoharengus. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

Brevoortia tyrannus. December 5, 1913 (Coney Island).

Stolephorus mitchilli. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Synodus foetens. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Hyporhamphus roberti. October 16, 1913 (Coney Island).

Fistularia tabacaria. October 16, 1913 (Coney Island).

Siphostoma fuscum. December 13, 1913 (Coney Island).

Sphyaena borealis. The record for Nov. 16, in COPEIA, No. 2, was of a specimen 176 mm. in total length, taken in 1912 not 1913.

Vomer setipinnis. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Trachinotus carolinus. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Pomatomus saltatrix. October 16, 1913 (Coney Island).

Pseudopriacanthus altus. A specimen of this rare fish, 38 mm. in total length. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Orthopristis chrysopterus. November 17, 1913 (Coney Island).

Bairdiella chrysura. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

Leiostomus xanthurus. December 29, 1913 (Coney Island).

Menticirrhus saxatilis. November 4, 1913 (Coney Island). One young.

Pogonias cromis. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

Chaetodon ocellatus. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Chilomycterus schoepfii. November 5, 1912 (Long Beach).

Myoxocephalus octodecimspinosus. A few were taken Dec. 29, 1913, at Coney Island, also large masses of their green eggs.

Prionotus strigatus. November 4, 1913 (Coney Island). One young.

Rissola marginata. October 30, 1913 (Coney Island).

Merluccius bilinearis. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

Pollachius virens. A young specimen about six inches long, City Island, July 15, 1915, brought to the Museum by Messrs. C. & O. Falkenbach.

Urophycis regius. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

Lophopsetta maculata. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

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AN ENCOUNTER BETWEEN A BLUE RACER SNAKE, *BASCANION FLAG- ELLIFORMIS* AND A "GOPHER."

A gopher of a species unidentified was running through the grass near my garden gate, and a Blue racer snake was loosely coiled up in the road, apparently on the watch, but not seeing me. As soon as the gopher became aware of the presence of the snake it darted forward, and commenced circling about the snake and from time to time running in and nipping at the body of the snake, and jumping back. The snake turned its head about constantly, watching the gopher, and twice it made ineffectual strikes at the running animal, with its open mouth. After some minutes of this kind of thing the gopher ran for its burrow and the snake thrust out its tongue and started towards the house, and being headed off, climbed up a small juniper tree, from which it was dislodged, and allowed to escape, which it did with incredible speed. I witnessed no evidence whatever of the power which it is popularly believed snakes

have of charming their prey, as all the wiles of this snake had no effect upon the gopher.

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THE MINK FROG, *RANA SEPTENTRIONALIS* BAIRD, IN ONTARIO.

Mr. P. H. Pope's note on the distribution of the mink frog in Maine,* recalls some of my experiences with this species while stationed at Prof. C. V. P. Young's boys' camp on Otter Lake, Dorset, Ontario, in the summer of 1913.

On July 7, in a peaty lake with clear sphagnumaceous border we found several *Rana septentrionalis*. From July 7-14, we heard at night along the shore of Otter Lake the peculiar note which later proved the croak of the mink frog. On the 15th of July at 10 P. M. we heard several frogs and started with flashlight for the Peat Lake where the species was in chorus. The air temperature ranged from 52° to 55° F., but the water of Otter Lake at its surface registered 69° F.

On July 16th and 17th, we examined the place closely. All along the north edge of the lake were white water lilies, yellow spatterdocks and water shields. These three made a perfect carpet on the water's surface. On these plants during the day the mink frogs rested. Whenever the sun went under a cloud or it became overcast they would croak. The water was about two feet deep. By pushing our canoe through the water plants toward the frogs, one person could place a landing net in front of the quarry while the other with the paddle could gently cause the frog to leap into the net. In this way we caught 15 specimens. Often the frogs would jump along on the lily pads, sometimes for considerable distance; seldom, if ever, did they give a cry like frightened young bullfrogs. Another favorite position was resting be-

*COPEIA, Mar. 15, 1915, No. 16.

tween the overlapping lily pads with just the head protruding, while in the center of the pond where there were only isolated plants, the frogs disappeared before we saw them, the "wake" near a lily pad indicating their former presence.

In the outlet to Otter Lake (Ten Mile Creek between Lake of Bays and Otter Lake) we found them common, July 24, on muddy bottoms where water lilies were abundant. In the same kind of situation they occurred on Porridge Lake, July 28. Another habitat we discovered August 31 was a beaver lake where Cassandra and all the associated heath-like plants grew. Finally, on Fletcher Lake, September 1, we found them in the shallow, sandy shores amongst pipeworts (*Ericaulon articulatum*).

After July 15th and 16th we heard no more choruses. On the latter date we captured one or two frogs with the stump of the tail remaining. These were about 38 mm. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ inches) from snout to vent, or little below the two largest individuals taken (49 mm. or 2 inches). The other specimens which were not lost measured 47, 42, 42, 43, 40, 40 mm. respectively. None of these eight specimens had fully developed eggs, though one female surely would have bred the following year. The middle of July, when the chorus was recorded, accords well with Garnier's observed season of breeding for this species, but we had small opportunity to determine if it obtained at Otter Lake.

This species cannot be called solely a river species; it has a "chant amour" which at chorus season can be heard one-third to one-half of a mile away; the name "mink frog" seems very apropos for this species, at least for Ontario specimens; the tadpoles remain at least one winter in this stage and transform at a size approaching that of the adult. The season of breeding, the length of larval period, the size of transformed frog place it with the green frog and bull frog. Neither of these species seemed to be asso-

ciated with it particularly although each was in the Lake of Bays region in numbers.

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RATTLESNAKES ON CATALINA ISLAND.

Van Denburgh and Slevin (Proc. Calif. Acad. of Sci., 4th Ser., Vol. IV, pp. 138-139) state that the presence of rattlesnakes on Catalina Island off the coast of southern California was first recorded by Yarrow from a specimen taken there by Mr. Schumacher in 1876. One additional specimen only is recorded. In that so little is known of *Crotalus oregonus* on the island, the following notes may be of interest:

During July, 1906, while camped at Whites Landing, I killed a rattlesnake about two feet long. The specimen was not saved. I believe that several other specimens were killed during the summer. At that time rattlesnakes were considered fairly common over the greater part of the eastern slope of the island.

Mr. Murray L. Royar, who has just returned from a summer spent at Avalon, has donated to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology a small specimen of *Crotalus oregonus* taken at Avalon on August 2, 1915. Mr. Royar reports that old-timers on Catalina Island say that there were no rattlesnakes on the island in early days. Later, when hay and other crops were introduced, rattlesnakes appeared. The reptiles were first seen around barns and near civilization and later took to the hills. He also states that even at the present time few are found far inland.

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